

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 038354

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, CA

SUBJECT:THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGES

REF: OTTAWA 473

1. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ACTION PROPOSED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER BILL C-82, AS REPORTED REFTTEL, COULD JEOPARDIZE SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGES UNLESS SOME CLEAR UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING TOLLS, MAINTENANCE, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION ETC. IS REACHED IN ADVANCE OF GOC TAKEOVER OF CANADIAN ASSETS OF THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE AUTHORITY (TIBA).

2. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO POSE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO EXTAFF AND/OR MOT OFFICIALS, OR OTHERWISE SEEK CLARIFICATION.

A) DEPARTMENT LAWYERS SOMEWHAT PERPLEXED ABOUT LEGAL STATUS OF TIBA IN CANADA. CAN EMBASSY DESCRIBE STATUS OF TIBA UNDER ONTARIO OR CANADIAN FEDERAL LAW? IS IT PRESENTLY CHARTERED OR INCORPORATED IN CANADA AS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITY? HAS TIBA SOLD BONDS OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS OF INDEBTEDNESS IN CANADA? IF SO, HAVE SUCH BONDS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROVED BY ANY CANADIAN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, OR HAS ANY

SUCH GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY INCURRED ANY OBLIGATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR REPAYMENT?

B) DOES THE GOC BELIEVE THAT CONTINUED SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGES CAN BE ASSURED WITHOUT SOME REGULAR ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES? (WE ARE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING OUR OWN VIEWS ON MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE.)

C) HOW WILL TOLLS, MAINTENANCE AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS BE HANDLED AFTER THE CANADIAN ASSETS OF THE BRIDGE AUTHORITY ARE VESTED IN THE GOC?

D) WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND ON THE TAX LIABILITY TO THE FRONT OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE MENTIONED IN BILL C-82? INGERSOLL

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